

From: Don Farrand
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 6:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs & Madams,

As a teacher trying to help others benefit from the use of the computer I was very frustrated in the 60s, 70s and 80s by the many different languages and programs. Each was useful in its own way - but it was extremely difficult to pass information from one language or program to another.

To compound the issue, each computer manufacturer tried to differentiate itself by issuing its own combination of default software. It was as if each private college tried to differentiate itself by teaching in its own unique language. Each college could produce useful work within its own people but the useful work would not benefit many because of the difficulty sharing with those beyond a limited confine.

I am most impressed with Microsoft's attempts to provide a wide set of software that can pass information between its parts. I also understand how useful it is for Microsoft to impress on computer manufacturers a set of software standards if that manufacturer is going to include Microsoft software.

For the good of computer users I hope that the current antitrust case can be settled in such a way that Microsoft can continue its work of making software and computers compatible.

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CC: Don Farrand